

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CU-04 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /113 W

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P 081127Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 155 PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CONFERENCE AND MEETING WITH STUDENTS
IN CHIANG MAI

1. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THREE DAY TRIP TO CHIANG MAI
BEGINNING ON JANUARY 8, THE AMBASSADOR HAD A PRESS
CONFERENCE WHICH ALREADY HAD BEEN SCHEDULED PRIOR TO JANUARY 5
WHEN THE NEWS STORY ON THE CIA INCIDENT HIT THE PAPERS. REPORTERS
CENTERED QUESTIONS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE CIA,
SPENDING 45 OF 50 MINUTES POSING QUESTIONS ON THE CIA
INCIDENT AND ROLE OF THE CIA IN THAILAND.

2. THE REPORTERS THEMSELVES ABSORBED MUCH OF THE
TIME IN MAKING STATEMENTS RATHER THAN IN POSING QUESTIONS.
THE AMBASSADOR ENDEAVORED TO ASSURE THEM THAT THE
INCIDENT WAS ONE WHICH WE REGRET, THAT HE HAS TAKEN
MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT SUCH AN EVENT CANNOT OCCUR AGAIN,
AND THAT ALL U.S. ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT IN COOPERATION
WITH AND ONLY WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE ROYAL THAI
GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO MADE CLEAR HIS RESPECT FOR AND
SUPPORT OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND THE MEASURES IT
IS TAKING TO CREATE A MORE DEMOCRATIC THAILAND.

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3. BY THE END OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE A RELATIVELY

LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS HAD GATHERED OUTSIDE USIS DEMANDING TO SPEAK WITH THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE CIA AND ALSO WITH A LETTER TO DELIVER TO HIM. ALTHOUGH HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH STUDENTS LATER, HE MET THEM AND HE SPENT ABOUT 10 MINUTES TALKING WITH THE GROUP. ON THE WHOLE THE STUDENTS WERE COURTEOUS. PERHAPS FIVE TOOK A RABBLE-ROUSING AND SOMEWHAT DISRUPTIVE ROLE, ABOUT WHICH SEVERAL STUDENTS WERE OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED AND APOLOGIZED. THE AMBASSADOR ACCEPTED THE LETTER WHICH PROTESTED THE CIA AND U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND.

4. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THE PRESS WILL PLAY THE CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THE MEETING WITH STUDENTS WAS POSITIVE IN ITS EFFECT, ALTHOUGH ACTIVISTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO TRY TO STIR UP STUDENTS ON THIS ISSUE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT HERE.

5. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THE CIA INCIDENT IS BEING VIEWED BY THAIS HERE WITH GREAT CONCERN.
MONTGOMERY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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